

Message Text

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TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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FOLLOWING REPEATS STATE 59658 ACTION NEW DELHI ISLAMABAD
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, IN

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE SECOND INDIAN
NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

REF: NEW DELHI 3619

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTTEL, WE ARE PROVIDING THOSE EXERPTS
FROM SECRETARY'S REMARKS BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS MARCH 9 IN WHICH INDIAN NUCLEAR
EXPLOSION (PAST OR FUTURE) WAS MENTIONED. POSTS SHOULD
NOTE THAT EXERPTS ARE FROM WORKING TRANSCRIPT ONLY AND
DO NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL RECORD OF SENATE PROCEEDINGS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

SENATOR PERCY (?): TRUE, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I THINK
THERE IS, AS SENATOR RIBICOFF SAID, PERHAPS EVEN SURPRISE
THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN MORE OF A REACTION. I THINK
POSSIBLY INDIA WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED WHEN THEIR PNE --
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PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION -- WENT OFF. IT IS POSSIBLE

THAT THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER. I HEAR RUMORS THAT THERE MAY BE A SECOND PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. WHAT REACTION IS THAT GOING TO HAVE IN PAKISTAN NOW?

FRANCE STILL PLANS TO SELL REPROCESSING TO PAKISTAN.

ANYONE WOULD KNOW THAT MIGHT THEN HAVE THE CAPABILITY NOT JUST FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, BUT ALSO THERE MAY BE A POSSIBILITY OF WEAPON DEVELOPMENT.

THAT IS ONE OF THE MOST VOLATILE AREAS OF THE WORLD. IT HAS IN THE PAST. AREN'T WE MOVING IN A VERY DANGEROUS DIRECTION, IF THERE ISN'T A VERY POSITIVE REACTION, OR NEGATIVE REACTION, TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR OBJECTION TO THE SALE OF THE REPROCESSING PLANTS TO THESE SENSITIVE AREAS. AND WE WILL BE ACTIVE WITH RESPECT TO IT DIPLOMATICALLY -- INDEPENDENTLY OF WHAT MAY BE ACHIEVED AT THE SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE.

SENATOR PERCY: WHAT WAS THE OFFICIAL U.S. REACTION TO INDIA'S EXPLOSION? THERE SEEMED TO BE VERY LITTLE COMMENT ON IT. WAS THERE A PRIVATE REPRESENTATION MADE TO INDIA? DID CANADA CARRY A LOAD ON THAT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: NO. WE DEPLORED IT STRONGLY, AND WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO INDIA THAT WE SAW NO NEED FOR IT, THAT WE DO NOT SEE THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN INDIA THAT WOULD JUSTIFY THE DOUBTS AND INSECURITIES THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED.

WE OBJECTED STRONGLY, BUT SINCE THERE WAS NO VIOLATION OF U.S. AGREEMENTS INVOLVED, WE HAD NO SPECIFIC LEVERAGE ON WHICH TO BRING OUR OBJECTION TO BEAR.

SENATOR PERCY: IF WE HAVE THAT CONCERN, LET'S SAY WE WANT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN AREAS WHERE WE HAVE -- WHERE THEY ARE DEEPLY ENTRENCHED, WE ARE, AND WE WANT TO AVOID THAT CONFRONTATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TION. THE MIDDLE EAST IS ONE OF THOSE. THE SUBCONTINENT IS ANOTHER ONE WHERE THEY HAVE DEEP INTERESTS.

IF IT IS TRUE THAT INDIA MAY EXPLODE ANOTHER WEAPON, OR MAKE ANOTHER EXPLOSION, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, AND THAT MAY PUT PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN, AND IT WOULD CAUSE INTENSIFICATION OF EFFORTS, TECHNOLOGICALLY, IN THE SUBCONTINENT. WHAT CAN THE SUPPLIERS DO? WHAT CAN

THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNITED STATES, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE
TAKEN A RESPONSIBLE POSITION IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA,
WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER WITH INDIA TO POINT OUT THE
DANGERS OF THIS MATTER? AND HOW WILL WE REACT IF THAT
IS SO?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: SOME OF THE RESTRICTIONS
THAT ARE APPLIED TO WESTERN EUROPE WOULD PRESENT A
DIFFERENT CASE, BECAUSE HERE YOU HAVE AN ACTUAL
EXPLOSION WHICH IS RAISING THE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER
COUNTRIES IN THE AREA MIGHT THEMSELVES BE TEMPTED TO
PURSUE THE SAME COURSE BEING PURSUED BY A COUNTRY NOT A
TRADITIONAL ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES, THOUGH WE HAVE
FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

SENATOR PERCY: BUT AREN'T WE STILL SHIPPING NUCLEAR
FUEL TO INDIA, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE BROKEN -- THEY
DIDN'T BREAK THE AGREEMENT WITH CANADA, PER SE. THAT
WAS FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. BUT THEY CERTAINLY
BROKE A MORAL COMMITMENT EVERYBODY THOUGHT THEY HAD
WITH THE WORLD, AND STILL WE ARE GOING TO SHIP THEM
FUEL, AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WE HAVE THIS NUCLEAR FUEL
CONTRACT WITH INDIA, WHICH HOWEVER DOES NOT AFFECT
THEIR CAPABILITY TO DO, THEIR CAPABILITY IN THE NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIVE FIELD. WE BELIEVE THAT A CONTINUATION OF
NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS BY INDIA WOULD HAVE A RECKLESS
QUALITY, THAT WOULD UNDERMINE REGIONAL STABILITY. AND
WE ARE CERTAINLY PREPARED TO EXAMINE MEASURES THAT CAN
BE TAKEN TO DISCOURAGE IT, TOGETHER WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS.

3. ABOVE TEXT SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED OR PROVIDED TO PRESS.
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